

Not all of the English poets laureate have been the greatest masters of verse. Alfred Austin, who assumed this post after Alfred Lord Tennyson, was one of the less distinguished - if more prolific - late Victorian poets. In modern times, his verse has become celebrated not for its smooth earnestness, but rather for the occasional howlers it contains. A notable example is this song from his pastoral epic Fortunatus the Pessimist, the final couplet of which is a popular favourite in anthologies of bad verse. - Summary by Algy Pug

Read by Algy Pug; Bruce Kachuk; Bill Mosley; CoMo290; David Lawrence; Newgatenovelist; Greg Giordano; Jude; Lee Ann Howlett; Larry Wilson; Patrick Wallace; Phil Schempf; RajVO; Scotty Smith; Tom Daley; Tomas Peter and tovarisch. Total running time: 00:16:33

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Alfred Austin

Fortunatus' Song